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FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7679
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RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC PRIORITY
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E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PREL PK NP
SUBJECT: NEPAL: FOREIGN SECRETARY COMMENTS ON BHUTTO
ASSASSINATION

REF: SECSTATE 170928

On December 31, in response to reftel points on the
assassination of Benazir Bhutto and U.S. policy, Foreign
Secretary Gyan Chandra Acharya stressed to the Ambassador

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that the Government of Nepal was most concerned to see an
election take place and democracy move forward in Pakistan.
The Prime Minister had emphasized these same points in his
condolence message to the Government of Pakistan and to the
former Prime Minister's widower. The Foreign Minister had
also expressed her deepest condolences at Pakistan's loss.
Acharya noted that Pakistan and Nepal's history were closely
connected. For example, President Zia's hanging of Bhutto's
father in 1979 had triggered protests in Nepal which
ultimately led to the referendum in 1980 on Nepal's Panchayat
system. The Foreign Secretary also pointed out that the
Prime Minister's sister was married to a Pakistani.
POWELL